

H. Res. 425

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 5, 2003.

Whereas in late October 2003, Southern California simultaneously experienced a number of devastating wildfires destroying thousands of homes, taking many lives, and burning hundreds of thousands of acres of grasslands and forests exceeding the devastation of any fires in the past century;

Whereas in the space of a few days, all of the resources of local firefighting companies were called upon to man fire lines on first one and then on many fronts;

Whereas firefighters were thrown into extraordinarily dangerous situations because of the fast-moving, fuel- and wind-driven fires;

Whereas firefighters exhibited resilience and courage in continuing to stay on the lines often in back-to-back shifts while knowing, in some instances, that their own families were in danger or that their personal homes had been lost and even giving the ultimate sacrifice of life;

Whereas those firefighters who were called initially were later assisted by skilled and courageous pilots flying water-drop flights in the most challenging wind and smoke conditions and by firefighters from throughout the State of California and neighboring States;

Whereas additional emergency personnel, such as law enforcement and medical personnel, have coordinated with local authorities and firefighters and have performed beyond the call of duty in the preservation and protection of human lives; and

Whereas members of the Armed Forces have once again met their country's call to duty, providing valuable firefighting assets and assistance to California's emergency response efforts; their actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of United States military service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors those firefighters and every public servant who participated in responding to the October 2003, historically devastating, outbreak of wildfires in Southern California and commends them for their dedicated service to the people of California.

Attest:

Clerk.